

EXCISE

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1094

TOP SECRET  
MEMORANDUM TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
DATE: 12, 1961

SUBJECT: Berlin Negotiations

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A. As I see it, we reached the following agreements this morning:

- (1) The approach of calling a Peace Conference and working toward Parallel Peace Treaties is agreed between us, and you will proceed to have it developed in detail.
- (2) We agree that Thompson should open negotiations on this basis with the Soviet Union, and he is to be called back for intensive discussion early next week.
- (3) We shall want to plan a careful approach to the Chancellor as soon as is practicable. We did not talk about the man for the job. McCloy? Acheson?
- (4) My speech to the UN will contain a statement on Berlin, and Sorensen will attempt a draft that serves all our purposes

B. We did not settle clearly some other points and I think we should talk about them with each other again before you get caught up in the Foreign Ministers Meeting. In particular:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

REVIEWED BY (1) G. L. DATE 2/15/68

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DECLASSIFIED

September 12, 1961

C. We agreed this morning that we would keep this whole question very close for the present. In the White House only Bundy and Sorensen know about it, and I hope that in the State Department you can keep it restricted to yourself, Kohler, Bohlen, Hillenbrand and Owen. The latter two, as I understand it, are the staff officers who are already familiar with this proposal as one of many, and I think they and all of us should talk about it, when we have to, without reference to the fact that it currently occupies a preferred position.

*John F. Kennedy*

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